

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 2292

## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BAKER.

3841H.01I

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To amend chapter 170, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to elective social studies courses on the Bible.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 170, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be  
2 known as section 170.341, to read as follows:

**170.341. 1. Any school district may offer students:**

2       **(1) An elective social studies course on the Hebrew Scriptures, the Old**  
3 **Testament of the Bible;**

4       **(2) An elective social studies course on the New Testament of the Bible; or**

5       **(3) An elective social studies course on the Hebrew Scriptures and the New**  
6 **Testament of the Bible.**

7       **2. The purpose of a course offered under this section is to:**

8       **(1) Teach students knowledge of biblical content, characters, poetry, and**  
9 **narratives that are prerequisites to understanding American history and culture,**  
10 **including literature, art, music, mores, oratory, and public policy; and**

11       **(2) Familiarize students with, as applicable:**

12       **(a) The contents of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament;**

13       **(b) The history of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament;**

14       **(c) The literary styles and structures of the Hebrew Scriptures or New**  
15 **Testament; and**

16       **(d) The influence of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament on law, history,**  
17 **government, literature, art, music, customs, morals, values, and culture.**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18           **3. A student in a course offered under this section shall not be required to use a**  
19 **specific translation as the sole text of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament and may**  
20 **use as the basic textbook a different translation of the Hebrew Scriptures or New**  
21 **Testament from that chosen by the school district.**

22           **4. A course offered under this section shall follow applicable law and all federal**  
23 **and state guidelines in maintaining religious neutrality and accommodating the diverse**  
24 **religious views, traditions, and perspectives of students in the school. A course offered**  
25 **under this section shall not endorse, favor, or promote, or disfavor or show hostility**  
26 **toward, any particular religion or nonreligious faith or religious perspective.**

27           **5. School districts, in complying with this section, shall not violate any provision**  
28 **of the Constitution of the United States or federal law, the Constitution of Missouri or**  
29 **any state law, or any administrative regulations of the department of elementary and**  
30 **secondary education or the United States Department of Education.**

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